

FLORAL BEAUTY at the FAIR.

THE BEAUTIFUL
LANDSCAPE
ON ART HILL.



THE PLEASING DESIGN WHICH BORDERS THE STEPS LEADING UP TO FESTIVAL HALL.



BRIDGES OVER THE LAGOON ARE BANKED WITH SHRUBBERY AND FLOWERS.

OLD-FASHIONED Flowers and Native Shrubby Have Been Most Attractively Combined.

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A feature of the World's Fair that is even more striking than the wonders of the exhibit palaces is the color scheme that has been produced by the skill of the landscape artists. The entire floral effect is produced by the use of common plants. Hothouses have been very little drawn upon. The plants used are seen in the daily walks of life. Even the designs that match the architecture of the buildings, the wonderful floral figures, even the monster floral clock itself, are thus produced.

Native shrubbery and old-fashioned flowers skillfully blended together lend their beauty to enhance that of the magnificent exhibit and State buildings. Ten million plants have been used to soften the sharp angles of the buildings and to cover unsightly spots of bare ground and unfinished staff work.

George E. Kessler, landscape architect of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, has accomplished two great things in his work.

First—He has created a beautiful picture—a living picture which is a delight to all who look upon it.

Second—He has taught the public not to despise the humble plants and the troublesome "brushes."

The landscape architecture at the World's Fair was a stupendous undertaking, considering the area that had to be covered and the short time in which the gardeners had to work. When the builders finished with the hammer and saw and cleared away their refuse it was late in the spring. Great crowds were gathering and the Fair looked incomplete because the background was lacking.

"When I was looking about for materials," says Mr. Kessler, "an Eastern nursery wrote me and told me that they had a rapid-growing shrub which was entirely new and that it would be just the thing I wanted. I sent for a few plants. When I received them I found them to be very inferior specimens of buckbrush, a plant that abounds in our country.

"Our native shrubs are the best material to use for quick and rich landscape effects. We are rich in shrubbery and native flora, and besides the plants do not have to become acclimated.

"One of the most striking effects produced by our native shrubbery is the mass back of the Palace of Fine Arts.

"There are also some striking effects near the bridges over the lagoons. I have bordered the masses with flowers to enliven the green of the shrubbery.

"In the floral decorations I have used the old-fashioned flowers. Because they are richer in color and will grow without so much pampering. If given a half of a show the flowers of our grandmothers' garden will grow and yield a wealth of bloom.

"I have used the perennials for borders along the edges of shrubbery and where there is much walking."

VAN.